

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGR-08

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: EC CHEDDAR CHEESE QUOTA

REF: EC BRUSSELS 4240

1. THIS CONFIRMS TELEPHONIC ADVICE GIVEN FRASER BY WHITE THAT RUMOR THAT USDA IS CONSIDERING TRANSFERRING A PORTION OF THE EC CHEDDAR CHEESE IMPORT QUOTA IS COMPLETELY INACCURATE.

2. AUSTRALIAN REPS VISITED USDA IN MARCH ASKING FOR REALLOCATION OF IRISH CHEDDAR QUOTA ON THEORY THAT WITHOUT BENEFIT OF SUBSIDIES IRELAND COULD NOT USE IT. USDA, IN EXPLAINING LONG STANDING POLICY GOVERNING TRANSFER OF IMPORT LICENSES WHEN THE IMPORTER IS UNABLE TO OBTAIN THE CHEESE OR OTHER PRODUCT, GAVE NO ENCOURAGEMENT WHATEVER TO THE AUSTRALIAN REQUEST.

3. TRANSFER POLICY, PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO FACILITATE FULL UTILIZATION OF THE OVERALL QUOTAS, IS SUMMARIZED AS
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FOLLOWS. IMPORT LICENSES SPECIFY THE SUPPLYING COUNTRY.

IF LICENSED IMPORTER CAN ESTABLISH THAT THE QUOTA ITEM IS NOT AND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IN THE SPECIFIED SUPPLYING COUNTRY OR CONVINCINGLY ESTABLISHES OTHER VALID REASONS

WHY HE CAN NOT USE HIS LICENSE, USDA UNDER ITS REGULATIONS MAY SHIFT THE LICENSE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR ONLY TO ANOTHER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN SPECIFIED BY THE IMPORTER. IN ALL SUCH CASES, USDA FIRST CONSULTS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY HAVING THE QUOTA ALLOCATION AND REQUESTS ITS AGREEMENT TO THE PROPOSED TRANSFER. WHILE NOT BOUND BY THE SUPPLYING COUNTRY'S RESPONSE, USDA NEVERTHELESS CONSIDERS IT SERIOUSLY AND NORMALLY DOES NOT OVERRIDE AN OBJECTION. YOU MAY REMIND COMMISSION THAT LAST FALL USDA HONORED OBJECTIONS TO TRANSFER REQUESTS INVOLVING EMMENTHALER QUOTAS OF EC MEMBER COUNTRIES AND ALSO IRELAND'S CHEDDAR QUOTA.

4. REQUESTS BY IMPORTERS CAN OBVIOUSLY BE CREDIBLE ONLY TOWARD END OF YEAR, THAT IS, WHEN VALIDITY OF LICENSES IS RELATIVELY NEAR EXPIRATION. SUBJECT IS THEREFORE ACADEMIC UNTIL MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER OR LATER.

5. FINALLY, USDA 'AS BEEN ADVISED BY THE IRISH DAIRY BOARD THAT THEY EXPECT TO FULLY UTILIZE THE CHEDDAR QUOTA WITH SHIPMENTS OF PREMIUM QUALITY AGED TABLE CHEESE REPLACING PROCESSING CHEESE. IF SO, NO TRANSFER REQUESTS SHOULD ARISE.

6. FYI - USDA WAS NOT CONTACTED ON THIS MATTER BY DE LANGE. END FYI. SISCO

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